AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the paragraph from line 12, page 7 as follows:

In the lower housing part 62, an annular base 70 is formed which comprises an annular support surface with an annular groove [[72]] 77 which is triangular in cross-section. As is revealed, in particular, from FIG. 3, on the underside of the flange 40 an annular rib 76 is formed which is triangular in cross-section. The annular rib 76 engages in the annular groove 77, whereby the guide component 36 is centred and arranged supported in the lower housing part 62. Within the annular base 70 , of which the internal diameter approximately corresponds to the internal diameter of the cylindrical section 36 , a lateral inlet 80 is provided for the coolant which comes from the bypass (not shown) of the cooling system of the internal combustion engine, as indicated by the arrow 82 . A further outlet 84 is connected to the chamber 86 of the lower housing part 62 for the diversion of the coolant to the coolant pump, as indicated by arrow 88.

Please amend the paragraph from line 24, page 7 to line 14, page 8 as follows:

During assembly of the unit according to FIGS. 2 and 3, when the cover part 64 is removed, said unit is inserted in the lower housing part 62 , the guide component 36 being supported on the annular surface of the base 70 and the annular rib 76 engaging in the annular groove 77 . Subsequently, the cover part 64 is positioned and sealingly connected to the lower housing part 62 , an axial pressure being exerted on the upper plate 18 via the seat surface 68 , whereby the spring 50 is biased. The arrangement is such that the piston-shaped valve member 14 which is a bypass valve member, is located outside the cylindrical section [[36]] 38. As a result, the bypass valve is opened and the coolant coming from the engine may flow according to the arrow 82 via the opened bypass valve into the chamber 86 and to the outlet 84 according to arrow 88 to the coolant pump. If the temperature of the coolant, for example engine coolant, rises, the expansion element 28 which co-operates with its upper section 90 on an abutment 92 in the cover part 64 , expands and, as a result, presses the plate arrangement 18 , 12 and the sealing

ring 24 downwards out of engagement with the main valve seat 68 . At the same time, the piston-shaped bypass valve member 14 closes the bypass valve by plunging into the cylindrical section [[36]] 38.